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August 26, 1999

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Docket Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive
Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

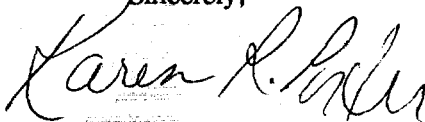
Dear Sir / Madam:

I am writing in support of United Poultry Concern's petition (docket number 98P-0203/CP) that would ban forced molting of egg-laying hens.

This practice is cruel for the hens and dangerous for consumers. These animals are subjected to deliberate starvation for up to two weeks, and sometimes water is withheld for days at a time. Not only do the hens suffer, but death can result from these barbaric practices.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's own research, forced molting tends to make hens more susceptible to salmonella infection and to laying salmonella-contaminated eggs.

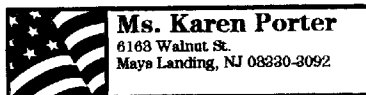
Sincerely,



Karen R. Porter

98P-0203

C1819



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